

I claim:

1. An endocervical curettings receiver comprising:  
an elongate handle having a longitudinal axis;  
collection means for collecting and retaining endocervical curettings, attached to said  
5 handle, at a proximate end of said collection means; and  
wherein said collection means has a circumferential edge which is smooth to avoid  
cutting or scrapping of the cervical area.
2. An endocervical curettings receiver as claimed in Claim 1 wherein said collection  
means has a concave, spoon shape.
- 10 3. An endocervical curettings receiver as claimed in Claim 2 wherein said collection  
means has a truncated end at a distal end of said collection means.
4. An endocervical curettings receiver as claimed in Claim 1 wherein said receiver is  
fabricated from stainless steel.
5. An endocervical curettings receiver as claimed in Claim 1 wherein at least part of said  
15 receiver is fabricated from a plastic material that can be discarded after use.
6. A method for obtaining tissue from inside a living body, the method comprising the  
steps of:  
inserting a curette having sharp cutting edges inside a body,  
inserting the collection means of an endocervical curettings receiver inside the body,  
20 and positioning said receiver adjacent to said curette, wherein said receiver comprises an  
elongate handle having a longitudinal axis; collection means for retaining said endocervical  
curettings, attached to said handle, at a proximate end of said collection means, wherein said  
collection means preferably has a concave, spoon shape, and has a truncated end at a distal end

of said collection means; and said collection means has a circumferential edge which is smooth to avoid cutting or scrapping of the cervical area;

moving said inserted curette to cause one or more cutting edges on said curette to cut tissue from the body;

- 5        placing or collecting said cut tissue within the collection means; and  
         withdrawing said curette and said collection means from the body.

7.       A method as claimed in Claim 6 wherein said collector of said endocervical curettings receiver is at least twice the size (in volume), of a collector section formed as part of the curette.

- 10      8.       A method as claimed in Claim 7 wherein said collector is between 5 and 20 times the size (in volume), of a collector section formed as part of the curette.